

How you can get involved:

- Become a StrikeForce partner!
- Participate in StrikeForce “listening” surveys
- Identify or become a Summer Feeding Site sponsor
- Host a “USDA Day” to showcase USDA programs
- Help us promote Strike Force successes
- Provide meeting rooms and other resources for StrikeForce events

To get involved, contact:

Vince Paumier  
Community Economic  
Development Specialist/  
StrikeForce Coordinator  
USDA Rural Development  
vince.paumier@oh.usda.gov

usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/  
usdahome?navid=STRIKE\_FORCE

StrikeForce for Rural Growth  
and Opportunity

Purpose

Encompassing 11 Ohio counties, StrikeForce leverages the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s arsenal of resources to address persistent poverty across America. Using mid-decade census demographic data, USDA identifies tracts with more than 20 percent poverty and then focuses on sub-pockets of chronic poverty. Team members will collaborate with state and local officials as well as community leaders to increase awareness of USDA programs and help build long-term, self-sustaining economic viability through intensive outreach and technical assistance.

Impact

Supports economic viability and increases access to infrastructure, housing and business services in “last mile” parts of the rural U.S., where 85 percent of the country’s persistent poverty is found.

Promotes food security and access to markets, including expansion of USDA’s Summer Food Service program. Focuses on funding for beginning farmers and ranchers, small business growth and improved conservation practices.

Expanded outreach to potential StrikeForce partners means more constituents and Non-Government Organizations learn about USDA’s competitive grants, loans & loan guarantees as well as nutrition assistance programs.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved  
OSU Extension

This initiative is new, with StrikeForce only recently expanding to include Ohio. We’d love to partner with OSU and any college, department or unit that expresses a desire to help.

- Community Partners Involved
- State and national elected officials
  - County Commissioners
  - Township Trustees
  - Mayors
  - Village Planners
  - County Economic Development Offices
  - Community Action Commissions and Agencies
  - Ag producers
  - Commodity groups
  - Rural businesses

- Federal Agencies:
- Housing and Urban Development
  - The Small Business Administration
  - Economic Development Administration
  - Appalachian Regional Commission

- State Agencies:
- Ohio Development Services Agency
  - Ohio Housing Finance Agency
  - Ohio Department of Agriculture

- Non-Profits:
- Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet)
  - Rural Action
  - Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG)
  - Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association (OMEGA)
  - Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)
  - Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District
  - Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
  - The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD)
  - Finance Fund
  - Various port authorities



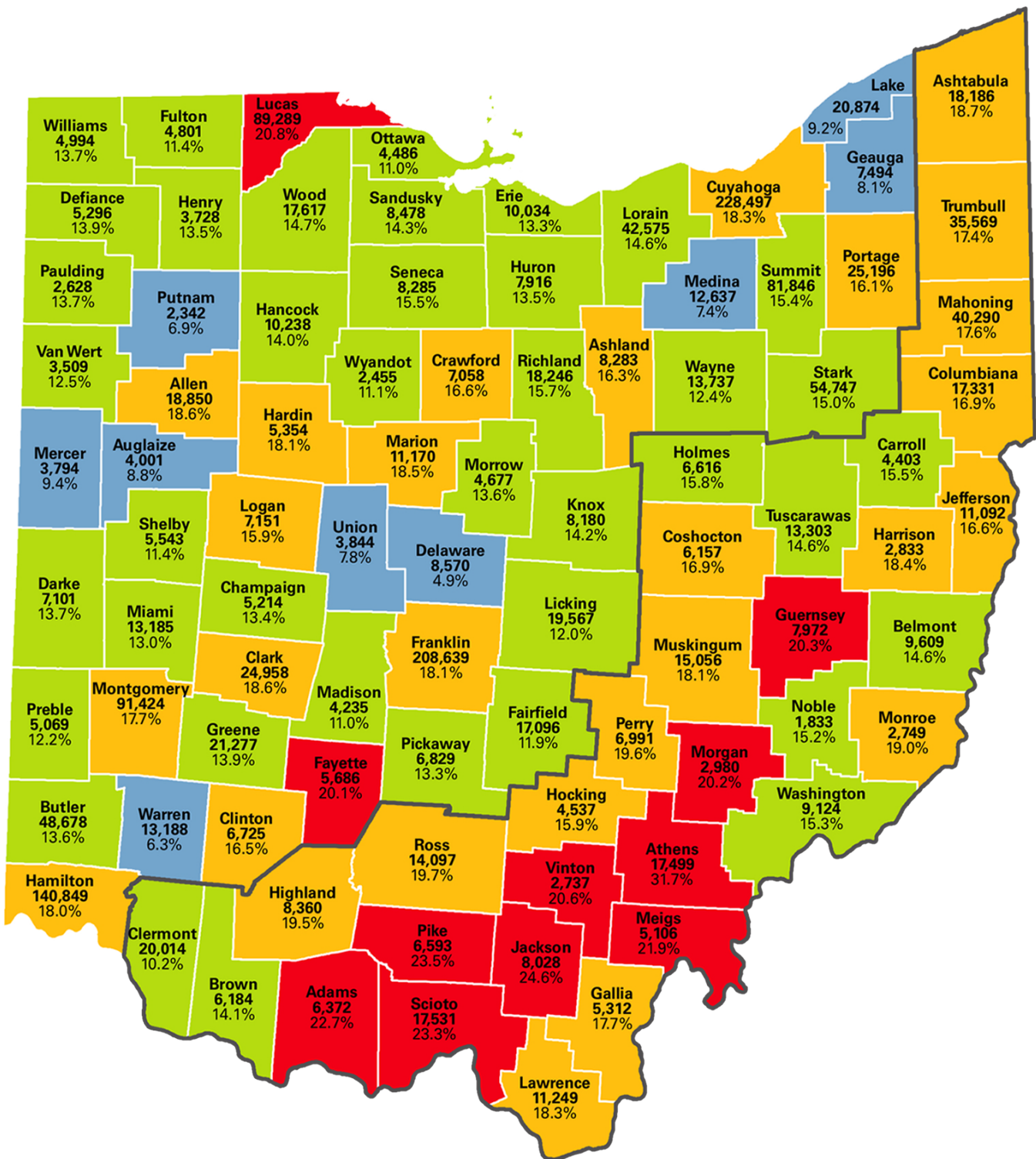
“StrikeForce has proven to be an effective, collaborative process that builds partnerships and enables USDA to bring economic opportunity directly to rural Americans where they live.”  
- U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

For more information, contact:

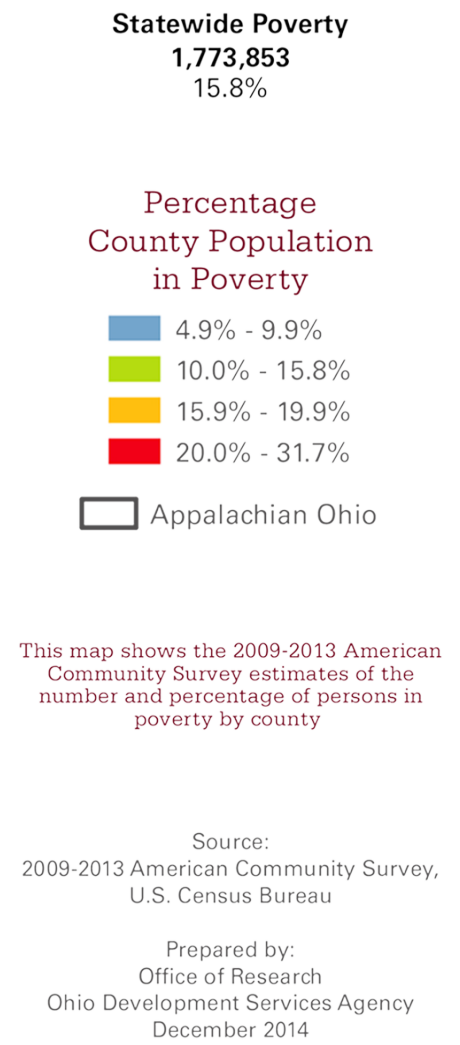
Vince Paumier  
Community Economic Development Specialist  
Rural Development  
614-255-2404  
vince.paumier@oh.usda.gov

Angel Arehart  
Conservation Stewardship Program Coordinator  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
614-255-2494  
angel.arehart@oh.usda.gov

Christina Reed  
Public Relations & Outreach Specialist  
Farm Service Agency  
614-255-2527  
christina.reed@oh.usda.gov



Poverty in Ohio  
by County  
2009-2013 American  
Community Survey



\*All Ohio StrikeForce counties have poverty levels greater than 20 percent.